

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
receiving over a wide-area network (WAN) an indication of a preference
of a user from a population of users that form a virtual community;
aggregating the preference into a database of previously received
preferences from the population, the aggregation being a set of preferences; and
deriving a financial product from the set of preferences.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the financial product is a mutual fund.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating with each preference a ranking of a submitting user; and
screening the preferences based on the ranking.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein deriving comprises:
identifying within the set of preferences a first subset of preferences
having a capitalization and a trading volume consistent with objectives of the mutual
fund.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
screening the first subset of preferences based on a ranking of a
submitting user to create a second subset.

2 ranking of a submitting user, investment style of the recommended list,
3 capitalization, average trading volume, price to earning ratio, return on investment,
4 gross margin, and revenue growth rate over a predetermined time period; and
5 generating analyst reports for submitting users satisfying predetermined
6 criterion.

1 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
2 distributing the newsletter electronically; and
3 updating the analyst reports and recommendations with a frequency
4 greater than weekly.

1 13. A method comprising:
2 receiving recommendations for securities from a population of users over
3 a wide area network (WAN);
4 generating a population weighted scale (PWS) for a first subset of the
5 securities recommended; and
6 identifying position changes for a mutual fund from the subset of
7 securities recommended.

1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein generating a PWS comprises:
2 compiling a list of unique securities recommended by a population of
3 users;
4 dollar weighting a first subset of the securities to have equal dollar
5 weighting; and
6 multiplying securities in the first subset by a number of user from the
7 population recommending the security.

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1 15. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
2 determining an industry weighting and a sector weighting of the PWS.

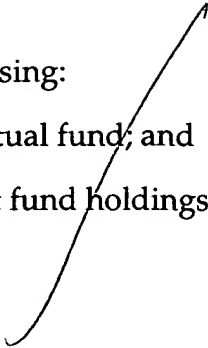
1 16. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
2 reducing the first subset to a second subset having a predetermined
3 discrete number of members.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein reducing comprises:
2 automatically eliminating from the second subset securities not satisfying
3 predetermined criteria, including at least one of:
4 price to earning ratio, capitalization, trading volume, beta, alpha, and
5 price to book ratio.

1 18. The method of Claim 16 further comprising:
2 rebalancing the mutual fund based on existing fund weighting, an
3 industry weighting of the PWS and a sector weighting of the PWS.

1 19. The method of Claim 18 wherein rebalancing comprises:
2 applying a valuation screen to the mutual fund; and
3 allocating new money to a security from the second subset based on the
4 application of the valuation screen.

1 20. A method comprising:
2 establishing a naked fund;
3 receiving a request for current mutual fund information over a wide area
4 network (WAN); and
5 transmitting current mutual fund information over the WAN.

- 1 21. A method comprising:
2 investing in a mutual fund; and
3 reviewing current fund holdings data received over a WAN from a server
4 node.
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